

Welcome to Men's Fraternity!

*Week 9*

*The All Alone Wound*

# Where we've been the last few weeks.....

- Unpacking our suitcases
- Resolving our relationships with mom and dad
- Making a plan to face wounds and prevent them from coloring our live and connections with others
- A few variations on these themes....

# Variations on the themes....

- The son – in – law
- The “unapplicable wound”
- The reversed Father Wound and Mother Wound –
  - The distant, disconnected mom
  - The overly bonded dad
- Other variations you guys have noted....?
  - “Every man has a story, and they’re all unique....”

# *The All Alone Wound*

The only self – inflicted  
wound

Life is a team sport !!

*Locking Arms* Stu Weber

# THREE SIGNIFICANT RELATIONSHIPS THAT EMPOWER AND ENERGIZE A MAN'S LIFE

## A. The Admiring Mentor

First half of life, but can be in any stage. A coach, a teacher, a special relative, employer. Rarely planned, just show up. Choose to go into your life, recognize your potential. Calls out the best in you. Mentors do what dads can't. They can "knight" a young man.

## 3 SIGNIFICANT RELATIONSHIPS

### B. The Side-by-Side Friend

A spoken, or unspoken, loyalty.

Transparent partners in life.

Men into whose hands you can place your thoughts, your dreams, your failures, and know they will be handled with care

## 3 SIGNIFICANT RELATIONSHIPS

### C. The Needy Protégé

Occurs in the second half of life.

“Protégé” means “one protected.”

A seasoned man, with his experience, failures, hurts, his “wealth of life,” carries it to a younger man’s life. Begins around mid 40’s, the opportunities appear to “knight” a young man, believe in him. No gain for you except to admire his soul, and inspire him to go higher.

## Some more free psychological advice.....

- Good judgment comes from experience.
- Experience comes from bad judgment.

And the experience of a mature man, imparted to a young protégé, invigorates, enlivens, and recharges the life of the mentor.  
Investing “down” to the next generation....

What a blessing to a man if he can  
experience these significant  
relationships...

*The Admiring Mentor*

*The Side-by-Side Friend*

*The Needy Protégé*

Lack of these healthy relationships  
with other men leads to .....

The All Alone Wound

# A DEFINITION OF THE ALL ALONE WOUND

A social, emotional, and spiritual loss caused by the lack of healthy male comradeship that results in...

Loneliness and discouragement  
Foolish behavior and blind spots  
Short sighted masculinity

THE POINT ...

Every man benefits from  
the company of other  
men.

Seems that men's friendships are easier when we are younger –

-“Happy Days”

-The origins of Men's Fraternity

But the lack of friends (not just acquaintances) leads to the “friendless American Male”

The data indicates that even the most intimate of male friendships, of which there are few, rarely approach the depth of disclosure a woman commonly has with other women. Men who neither bare themselves or bear with one another are “buddies” in name only.

SMU Study

# THE SIGNIFICANT DOWNSIDE TO ISOLATION

## 1. Warped perspectives on life

Self deceit comes to men who have no one to ask for clarity. Alone, we can talk ourselves into ANYTHING.

With no challenge, there is no balance.

You become blind to your own foolish behaviors, unless someone points it out to you. You need more than 2 eyes. People talk about you, but not to you.

There is a way that  
seems right to a man, but the way  
therein is death.

Proverbs 14:12

# THE SIGNIFICANT DOWNSIDE TO ISOLATION

2. Hurtful and damaging decisions

He who separates himself seeks his  
own desire;  
he quarrels against  
all sound wisdom.

Proverbs 18:1

# THE SIGNIFICANT DOWNSIDE TO ISOLATION

## 2. Hurtful and damaging decisions

Strays from the herd are in danger. The pull of evil is strong when you are alone. In the environment of consistent isolation, “anything goes.”

## THE SIGNIFICANT DOWNSIDE TO ISOLATION

3. Loss of motivation for a lofty  
manhood vision

We need “Male Cheerleaders” to encourage us in the **NOBLE THINGS** of life. Not your golf game, or your business success, but your commitment to family, values, investing in our kids, doing what’s right on our job -- **HIGHER THINGS** in life.

## THE SIGNIFICANT DOWNSIDE TO ISOLATION

4. Loss of transparency – knowing and being known – is critical. Failure to be known -> “no one knows me, no one understands me” -> leads to further isolation. We feel sorry for ourselves, have a pity party, which leads to

*Discouragement*

*Depression*

*Danger*

Iron sharpens iron, so one man  
sharpens another.

Proverbs 27:17



There is a friend who  
sticks closer than a brother.

Proverbs 18:24

Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor. For if either of them falls, the one will lift up his companion. But woe to the one who falls when there is not another to lift him up.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

A friend loves at all times, and a  
brother is born for adversity.

Proverbs 17:17



And let us consider how to stimulate  
one another to  
love and good deeds.

Hebrews 10:24

Jonathan loved David  
as his own life.

1 Samuel 20:17

# *Life is a Team Sport*

Learn the 3 Keys to  
friendship

## WHAT YOU CAN DO ...

1. Learn the 3 Keys to friendship

- Loyalty – being there for other men when they need it. There is no substitute for the visit, the phone call, the note...to contact, support, cheer, whatever is necessary.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO ...

1. Learn the 3 Keys to friendships

- Faithfulness (to “our values”) – serious friendships are built on values, spoken or unspoken.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO ...

1. Learn the 3 Keys to friendship

- Loyalty
- Faithfulness (to “our values”)
- Encouragement

# DEVELOPING MANHOOD CONNECTIONS

2. Reach out to other men.

This takes courage as an adult. You will have to be proactive.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO ...

2. Reach out to other men.
3. Challenge men you like to meet regularly with you to "get better."

Bible study – stretch your mind and spirit

Field trip –

Prayer team –

“E-team” – encouragement team

Hold your MensFrat table together

He who walks with the wise grows  
wise, but the companion of fools  
suffers harm.

Proverbs 13:20

## WHAT YOU CAN DO ...

2. Reach out to other men.
3. Challenge men you like to meet regularly with you to “get better.”
4. Share life together. When you talk about fears, and needs, and doubts, and successes, and noble causes, you are sharing LIFE. Our table groups are the beginning....

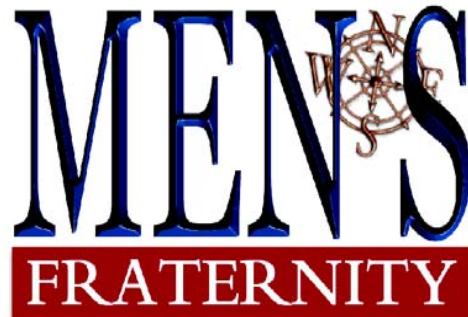
## WHAT YOU CAN DO ...

5. Enjoy life experiences together.

What do old men reminisce about? - times they labored together side by side, times they overcame obstacles, times they feared failure but prevailed, times they were more than they thought they could be. So, create those experiences with other men....

# How our friend Warren Schmidt ends up....

- Starts supporting an African orphan, pours out his heart to little Ndugu in letters...



*Get busy living, or get  
busy dying....*

Outline slides follow

# *The All Alone Wound*

## *Life is a Team Sport !!!*

### Three Significant Relationships that Empower and Energize a Man's Life

- A. The Admiring Mentor – calling out the best in a young man
- B. The Side-by-Side Friend – transparent partners in life
- C. The Needy Protégé

# *The All Alone Wound*

## **Life is a Team Sport !!!**

### **A Definition of the All Alone Wound**

**A social, emotional, and spiritual loss caused by the lack of healthy, male comradeship that results in:**

**Loneliness and discouragement**

**Foolish behavior and blind spots**

**Short sighted masculinity**

# *The All Alone Wound*

## *Life is a Team Sport !!!*

### **The Significant Downside to Isolation**

- 1. Warped perspectives on life – no challenge = no balance**
- 2. Hurtful and damaging decisions – strays are in danger**
- 3. Loss of motivation for a lofty manhood vision – male cheerleaders**
- 4. Loss of transparency – being known to another man – leads to:**
  - Discouragement**
  - Depression**
  - Danger**

*The All Alone Wound*  
**Life is a Team Sport !!!**

**Keys to Developing Friendships**

**1 -Know the essential elements of friendship**

- Loyalty – no substitute for “being there”
- Faithfulness – shared values
- Encouragement to other men

**2 -Reach Out to Other Men – proactive!**

**3 -Challenge Men to meet regularly to “get better”**

Studies, teams, classes, “just coffee”

**4 -Share Life together – like at our tables**

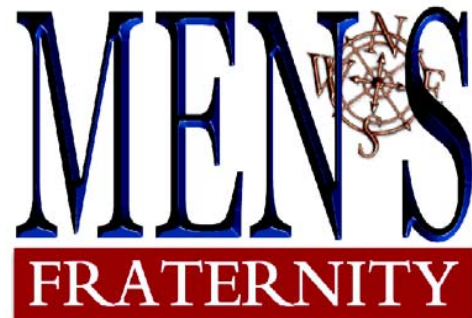
**5 -Enjoy life experiences together – shared “scheduled disasters”**

## *The All Alone Wound*

# **Life is a Team Sport !!!**

### Questions for discussion:

1. Ever seen a man talk himself into something stupid? Ever do it yourself?
2. Ever had an Admiring Mentor? Side by Side Friend? Protégé? How did that work for you?
3. Anyone ever cheer you on to “Noble things?”
4. What will you reminisce about when you are older?
5. What is difficult about reaching out to other men?



*Get busy living, or get  
busy dying....*